



# AMERICAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

Chartered by Congress

The third meeting of the Numismatic Terms Standardization Committee met on December 10th at 10:00 A.M. in the Library Room of the Roosevelt Hotel in New York City during the GENA Convention. Committee members present included A.N.A. Vice-President Arthur Sipe, Chairman; Lee Hewitt of Numismatic Scrapbook Magazine; Henry Grunthal, American Numismatic Society Representative; Chester Krause, publisher of Numismatic News and Coins Magazine; William T. Louth, President of the Medallist Art Company; Russell Rulau of Coin World and World Coins; Joseph Segel, President of General Numismatics Corporation; John J. Pittman, A.N.A. Governor; and Mrs. Virginia Culver, A.N.A. Governor and Past President of the Token and Medal Society. Kenneth Bressett represented the Whitman Publishing Company in the absence of R. S. Yeoman.

The Chairman, Arthur Sipe, discussed a letter from Joseph Segel. In light of this discussion, it was decided that all members of the committee should be sent a copy of this letter. (Copies of this letter were sent to all members of the committee by the secretary on December 29, 1966.)

A general discussion followed on the tentative definition of the word "Coin". The basic definitions - a composite of committee members' definitions - were reviewed by the committee. In the interest of saving time, it was suggested that the Colorado Springs Office revise the list of terms to be defined for continuity of thought..... i.e., all words with the modifier "coin" be placed alphabetically under that word, all words with the modifier "token" be placed alphabetically under that word, etc.

Using the composite list of definitions, a discussion on Ancient Coin produced this tentative definition: Generally any coin issued before the Fall of the Roman Empire, approximately 500 A.D.

Much discussion followed on the next term, Coin-Like. Basically, is the purpose of this committee to define all terms? Or is the purpose of the work of this committee

to educate the numismatic fraternity and label some terms as misnomers? The Chairman, Arthur Sipe, felt we should tackle all terms regardless of their merit. The corrected definition of "coin-like" was: A descriptive term applied to a medal or token that looks like a coin.

The corrected definition for the next term, "coin medal" was: A medal made by the "coining" process. As basic definitions are formulated, new terms are necessarily added to the almost 100 terms already listed. "Coining process" was defined as: The process of forcing cold metal into a die under high pressure -- in modern times using a closed cavity, i.e., collar.

This definition produced the need for defining the word, "collar". There was no discussion on this term, but two members submitted their written definitions for this. William T. Louth suggested: A retaining ring placed around a die cavity to form the edge of the piece struck in the die. Joseph Segel suggested: A steel ring within which two coining dies press a planchet. The collar restrains the expansion of the planchet and forms the edge of the piece.

The next term, "coin token", produced this corrected definition: A token used as money with a limited redemption period.

The last term on the list discussed was "copper coin". The corrected definition for this term was: A coin containing over 95% pure copper. Copper alloys of 95% or less copper are usually bronze or brass.

Joseph Segel suggested that we realign our definitions to follow a basic pattern or the same order to be better coordinated and for better understanding.

As some members of the committee would be attending the "F.U.N." Convention in Florida in January, it was mentioned that they might convene to tackle a few more definitions. An invitation was issued to the committee by William T. Louth to meet at

the Medallic Art Company sometime in the spring for the fourth official meeting. Some discussion followed on the time and the place of the next meeting and it was generally agreed that perhaps a more central location such as Chicago might afford more members the opportunity of attending the next meeting. All members in attendance agreed that for the benefit of the committee, it would be most desirable if all members could attend the next meeting so that much more might be accomplished.

The date and location of the next official meeting will be announced well in advance by the Chairman, Arthur Sipe.

Mrs. Virginia Culver,  
Secretary



# AMERICAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

Chartered by Congress  
MRS. VIRGINIA CULVER

Board of Governors  
P. O. Box 96, THIENSVILLE, WISCONSIN 53092

January 9, 1967

Mr. Eric P. Newman  
P.O. Box 14020  
St. Louis, Missouri 63178

Dear Eric,

I was very sorry that you were unable to attend the third meeting of the A.N.A. Numismatic Terms Standardization Committee on December 9th in New York City.

You have received a copy of Joe Segel's letter of November 10th to Matt Rothert - copies sent by me to all committee members on December 29th. For my own personal edification, I would like to know if you agree with Joe when he discusses the tentative definition upon which we arrived for the word, token. That is on page 3 of his letter. He feels we have gone astray in our definition because we have included advertising pieces which have no specific exchange value.

I would certainly value your opinion on this discussion, because perhaps my basic knowledge of the word token is not the accepted definition by most authorities. I do not feel we can change the concept of the word, token as understood by numismatists who preceded us a hundred or so years ago.

Sincerely,

*Virginia*

THE

*Conrad Hilton* CHICAGO

Dear Eric,

F.X. Calico of Barcelona asked  
that I send you copy of his letter.

Sincerely,

*Virginia*

F. XAVIER CALICÓ

Member of the Numismatic Terms  
Standardization Committee

Barcelona, January 17th 1967.

Mr. Joseph M. Segel  
President  
General Numismatics Corporation

Dear Mr. Segel,

I will like to congratulate you for the contents of your letter to Mr. Matt Rotherf of November 19th.

I think that your point of view is extremely realistic and for this reason it may be very useful.

I agree with the direction of your points of view but I believe that it will be convenient also to keep in mind that we must try to clear up the vicious use of certain key words as for instance the word COIN.

After your so careful work it appears to me that exist a big difference between the situation in United States and in Europe on this question.

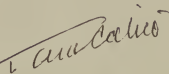
Perhaps this difference is due to the use of the word COIN to define the same object in what in French is called MONNAIE or in Spanish MONEDA. The fact is that in french the word MONNAIE or in spanish the word MONEDA could not be confused with others coined objects than Money. If the use of the word Money for coin is not possible for gramatical reasons we must accept the other definitions for the word COIN when they are justified for natural reasons others than of personal interest.

In the advertising field it seems possible to consider as vicious the use of the word COIN for other objects which are intended to sell as really coins, and in my point of view this practice is one of the things that we must try to avoid.

Anyway I insist that your comments are so useful that in the future will justify the existence of our Committee.

The 1st February I expect to arrive in New York -Waldorf Astoria- until the 5th February and then in Miami -Colombus Hotel- until the 15th February. So then I will be very pleased to be of any use to you.

Sincerely yours,



cc. To all the members of the Numismatic Terms  
Standardization Committee.



# AMERICAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

Chartered by Congress

MRS. VIRGINIA CULVER

Board of Governors

P. O. Box 96, THIENSVILLE, WISCONSIN 53092

December 29, 1966

Dear Numismatic Terms Standardization Committee Members,

It was decided at our December 10th meeting in New York City that all members of this committee be sent a copy of the enclosed letter.

Happy New Year,

Virginia Culver, Secretary

November 10, 1966

Mr. Matt Rothert  
P.O. Box 10  
Camden, Arkansas

Dear Matt:

Although I am a little late in submitting my comments in response to your letter of September 29, it has not been as a result of any lack of interest. On the contrary, I have been giving this whole matter of numismatic definitions a great deal of thought and research, and I have discussed our problem with many people who are numismatists, as well as with others whose advice might be helpful.

I would like to see our committee complete its work as rapidly as possible, because better definitions of basic terms are badly needed by the numismatic fraternity. However, I believe that in some respects we have been going too fast and if we don't move more carefully and deliberately our efforts will be for naught. In particular, I am disturbed by the dilution and confusion caused as a result of trying to define too many terms at the same time. We have not yet done a workmanlike job of defining the key words at issue -- coin, token and medal -- and I think we ought to concentrate on these words until that job is done, rather than be diverted by dozens of minor terms at this time.

The first two meetings of this committee served to acquaint all participants with varying viewpoints and technical considerations. From these discussions we developed a set of tentative definitions, which was a step forward. Now, I say that we should continue to move forward on the main highway before branching off onto a hundred side roads.

There are two other mistakes which, after reflection, I believe we have made and must correct if we are to effectively accomplish our objectives.

I believe it is a mistake to hide our heads in the sand and ignore the other definitions of these key words as they are used in other fields. Sure, I agree that we are defining the terms primarily for numismatists. But, this



is supposed to be an educational endeavor -- and it will be educational only if we present the whole picture. This will not weaken our objective of standardization, if it is done right. All we have to do is clearly designate the "preferred numismatic definition" of each term, for the numismatic fraternity, but also record and identify other significant alternate definitions of the same term. That's what any good dictionary does, and that's what I believe the members of A.N.A. would expect of our committee.

I also believe it is a mistake for us, as amateurs, to come up with "final" definitions. There is more to the science of defining words than meets the eye. This is a job for a professional semanticist. What seems crystal clear to you or me may be terribly ambiguous to someone else. Our job should be to refine, test and amplify the meanings -- and then we should turn over the framework of our definitions, in outline form, to a professional semanticist (or dictionary editor) to complete the job professionally. We should, of course, review the final work before it is published.

With the above thoughts in mind, I have some specific comments regarding our tentative definitions of the three key terms:

#### 1. COIN

I think that the "preferred numismatic definition" of the word COIN, when used alone without appropriate modifiers, should cover these essential characteristics:

- a. a formed object (as distinguished from a printed object)
- b. usually made of metal
- c. issued by a governing authority
- d. intended to be used as a general medium of exchange

I feel that it is equally important to recognize and note that the word "Coin" has taken on other meanings in other fields; and when certain modifiers are tacked on to it, it means other things even in the numismatic field. For instance, although there may still be differences of opinion as to just what a "Fantasy Coin" is, it is universally agreed that a "Fantasy Coin" is not a "Coin" in the numismatic sense. On the other hand, the word "Coin" in the advertising field is widely understood to mean any coined object, and we can't change that so we might as well recognize it as an alternate definition used in that field. (I tried recently to change it by referring to what advertising people call "coins" as "medals", and they all thought that I was referring to "decorations." The only way I could communicate with these people was to speak their language, so I have resumed using the word "Coin" in its generic sense in the advertising field, while using it in the much more limited numismatic sense when conversing with numismatists.) During my research on these definitions, I was surprised to find several letters in my files from high officials in the Treasury Department indicating that they too are accustomed to using the word "Coin" in a generic fashion to refer to any coined object, while on the other hand Eva Adams, who is numismatically oriented,

uses the word only in its strict numismatic sense. Then, of course, there are many other meanings of the word "Coin", which I won't enumerate here, but which I feel ought to also be included in our final summary, in small type with attributions, so that the picture is complete.

## 2. TOKEN

I think that the "preferred numismatic definition" of the word TOKEN, when used alone without appropriate modifiers, should cover these essential characteristics:

- a. a formed object (as distinguished from a printed object)
- b. usually made of metal
- c. usually of private issue
- d. intended to be used as a limited medium of exchange

You will notice that by working in outline form, rather than in sentence form, it is easier to spotlight the similarities and differences between a "Coin" and a "Token". I think that the committee went a little too far afield when it started broadening the definition of "Token" to include advertising pieces not having specific exchange value. I fully recognize that the word "Token" is frequently used in such a sense, but I think this should be one of our alternate definitions, and should not be part of the "preferred numismatic definition." If Dr. Clain-Stefanelli had been at our last meeting in Chicago, I am sure he would have conveyed this point more forcefully and convincingly than I did. This is a golden opportunity to clearly distinguish coins, tokens and medals in the numismatic sense, and I feel that we should not let our basic definitions get fuzzy. It is in the alternate definition section, under each word, that we can note the many variations. But, let's focus clearly on the basic difference between a "Coin" and "Token" in the numismatic sense -- a "Coin" is issued by a governmental authority to be used as a general medium of exchange, a token is usually of private issue to be used as a limited medium of exchange. If it doesn't have some exchange value, it really is not a "Token" in the numismatic sense, although it might be quite properly called a "Token" according to some other recognized definition in another field.

## 3. MEDAL

I think that the "preferred numismatic definition" of the word MEDAL, when used alone without appropriate modifiers, should cover these essential characteristics:

- a. a formed object (as distinguished from a printed object)
- b. usually made of metal
- c. honoring a person, place or event
- d. not intended to have any monetary or exchange value

Here again, we must recognize that there are other accepted meanings, and when the word "Medal" is combined with other words it takes on different colorings of meaning. But, I think that our "preferred numismatic definition" can clearly distinguish a "medal" by its primary characteristic -- no monetary or exchange value.

After reflecting on my comments, I hope you will see why I feel that we ought to approach the basic definitions of the three key words a little more methodically than we were able to do during our initial committee meetings -- and why I feel so strongly that we must separate basic numismatic definitions from alternate definitions in a manner that will fulfill our dual responsibility to inform as well as to lead.

Then we get to a different class of terms, which are basically technical like PROOF, PROOF-LIKE, etc. I can define these terms at the snap of a finger, because I am very close to the technical aspects of the coining process (and that is a basic metalworking process rather than a numismatic term), but I am not sure that it is fair to apply my definitions to all numismatic objects. After all, the technology has changed over the years and things were not always done as they are now. In fact, there are many government mints who are still using some medieval techniques. So, before defining these technical terms more usefully in a numismatic sense, I would like to have the opportunity to more fully explain the technical variations at the next committee meeting.

I hope that the above comments will be of some help to you.

Sincerely yours,

Joseph M. Segel  
President



# AMERICAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

Chartered by Congress

MRS. VIRGINIA CULVER

Board of Governors

P. O. Box 96, THIENSVILLE, WISCONSIN 53092

March 24, 1967

Mr. Eric P. Newman  
P.O. Box 14020  
St. Louis, Missouri 63178

Dear Eric,

Although my congratulations are a bit late, wanted you to know that I was pleased you were chosen to be on the 1967 Assay Commission plus the special honor of being chosen as chairman.

I agree that our Numismatic Terms Standardization Committee should only tackle terms for America. I also basically agree that the word "token" means "token money" and consequently has a direct or implied exchange value. However, the basic premise at our first meeting was all categories of numismatic items fit into one of three classifications - coins, medals, or tokens.

Consequently, if we narrow the definition of the word "token" to its basic concept, where do we place such items as advertising cards, communion tokens, etc. etc.??????? Something has to give! All members of the committee must give a little or we will never reach any definitions, also.

My anxiety and personal interest in seeing our committee achieve some results is compounded every time that I receive a packet of letters from the publishers from the two monthly columns. There is a great need for education in numismatic terms even on the primary level! You wouldn't believe some of the letters.

Would appreciate your opinions on this situation, personally, i.e. what to do with all those "things" that are not token money. I feel there is more disagreement among the committee in this area than any other and if we could solve this, we'd be able to progress.

Hope that I can count on your vote to be re-elected for the board.

Sincerely,

*Virginia*



# AMERICAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

Chartered by Congress

ARTHUR SIPE

First Vice President

4021 Bonsall Avenue

DREXEL HILL, PENNSYLVANIA 19026

April 7, 1967

TO: COMMITTEE TO STUDY THE STANDARDIZATION OF NUMISMATIC TERMS

Dear Committee Member:

A meeting of the Numismatic Terms Standardization Committee will be held at 10:00 AM on Saturday, April 29, 1967, in the Park Sheraton Hotel, New York City, to continue our study of numismatic terms and words and lay some guidelines for the completion of this effort.

Since we have no expense budget for this work the meeting is being called in conjunction with the Metropolitan New York Numismatic Convention for those members who will be attending this convention and those who are in the area.

Matt Rotherth, President, will be attending the Central States Convention and will call a meeting for the committee members who will be attending that show the same week-end at 10:00 AM, April 29, 1967, in Hotel Pere Marquette, Peoria, Illinois.

Another list of words arranged under specific headings will be sent to you under separate cover for your consideration and comments.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Art", which is a common nickname for Arthur.

ARTHUR SIPE

Chairman

1 - Each Committee Member

AS:brg



# AMERICAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

Chartered by Congress

ARTHUR SIPE

First Vice President

4021 Bonsall Avenue

DREXEL HILL, PENNSYLVANIA 19026

June 6, 1967

Mr. Eric F. Newman  
6450 Cecil Ave.  
St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Dear Eric:

Thank you very much for your many contributions to the efforts of the Numismatic Terms Standardization Committee in its quest for definitions of numismatic words and phrases.

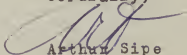
As you know, those committee members who met in New York agreed with those who met in Peoria, Ill. on April 29th to have published definitions for the three basic words namely, Coin, Medal and Token. Many more words and phrases have been defined and will appear in later issues of the Numismatist.

A meeting of this important committee will be called in Miami Beach, Florida at the A.N.A. convention during the week of August 8th and I trust that you can be with us.

Your comments relative to my candidacy for the Presidency of the A.N.A. are very much appreciated.

Perhaps we will see you in Colorado Springs this coming week-end.

Cordially,



Arthur Sipe



# AMERICAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

Chartered by Congress

July 29, 1967

To The Members of the Numismatic  
Terms Standardization Committee

A meeting of the A.N.A.'s Numismatic Terms Standardization Committee will be held at our Florida convention at 2:00 P.M. on Wednesday, August 9th in the Americana Hotel; the meeting room will be posted at the registration desk.

We have published definitions of the basic terms in the June issue of the Numismatist and we will publish more definitions in the September and subsequent issues.

We should define or set a policy for defining the remaining words and phrases on the list sent to each of you this past Spring. Please check over your lists and be prepared with definitions and suggestions for our meeting; additional lists will be available.

If you cannot be with us at the convention, please send any definitions or comments which you might have addressed to me, c/o Americana Hotel, Bal Harbour, Miami Beach, Florida.

We most certainly appreciate all the time, patience and talent you have given to this project and look forward to seeing you in Florida.

Yours sincerely,

  
Arthur Sipe